

ORDER OF

AHEPA

Founded July 26, 1922



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AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

SUPREME LODGE HEADQUARTERS

1422 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005 • (202) 628-4974

Cyprus

October 19, 1974

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed is a copy of my letter to President Gerald Ford regarding Cyprus and setting forth on behalf of the members of the Order of Ahepa and all other Americans of Greek descent, the position that we strongly believe is in the best interests of the United States.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William G. Chirgotis".

William G. Chirgotis
Supreme President
Order of Ahepa

Enclosure
WGC:rk

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October 19, 1974

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We are pleased that you have signed the continuing resolution which includes the termination of illegal military assistance to Turkey.

Mr. President, we wish to set forth on behalf of the members of the Order of AHEPA and all other Americans of Greek descent, the position that we strongly believe is in the best interest of the United States. Basically, this position is the return of all refugees to their homes and properties and demilitarization of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus. This position excludes both extremes - "enosis" (union with Greece) and partition, either of which would be disastrous for United States policy interests.

The following points represent our views regarding appropriate United States policies vis-a-vis the Cyprus question:

1. Removal of all invasion forces in accordance with UN Resolution 353 and related UN Resolutions. Respect for sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, and independence of Cyprus. Resumption and strengthening of the peacekeeping mandate of the United Nations forces throughout the territory of the Republic of Cyprus.
2. In accordance with UN Resolution 361 and general UN principles, immediate return of all refugees to their homes and protection of their fundamental civil rights and safeties.
3. Utmost urgency for United States humanitarian relief assistance in the amount of \$100,000,000 to alleviate the tragic conditions under which 234,000 Greek Cypriot, Armenian, British, Maronite, Jewish, and the 42,000 Turkish Cypriot refugees are currently existing. All these refugees and displaced persons are the direct result of the Turkish aggression against Cyprus.

2.

4. Demilitarization of Cyprus from Greek and Turkish troops stationed there under the Treaty of Guarantee (1960) and from all additional troops illegally present on the island of Cyprus.

5. Rejection of all attempts to impose any form of geographically based federation of Cyprus, which would merely be a first step toward partition, double-annexation and eventual destruction of Cyprus as an independent nation.

6. Protection of full civil rights for all minority groups in Cyprus.

7. Minimum prerequisites for substantive negotiations leading to a final settlement of the dispute must include the removal of Turkish invasion troops from Cyprus and the completed return of all refugees to their homes and properties as a first priority.

8. War reparations from Turkey to the Greek and Turkish Cypriots, Armenians, British, Maronites, Jewish and other communities damaged by Turkish aggression.

We have just completed AHEPA's fact-finding mission to Cyprus. As a result of our on-the-scene observations, we cannot stress enough our concern regarding the terrible conditions of all the refugees in Cyprus. There are more than 276,000 refugees in Cyprus, comprising over 40 percent of its population, who have been rendered homeless, destitute, and in dire need of medical assistance because of Turkish aggression.

The October 14, 1974 report of the Senate Subcommittee on Refugees and Escapees sets forth the terrible conditions obtaining for the refugees and sharply criticizes our government's role in this respect. [We were shocked to read the story in The New York Times on October 14 dealing with the State Department Memorandum entitled "Humanitarian Relief on Cyprus" dated August 21, 1974.]

Mr. President, the issue is aggression by Turkish militarists. The United States must not continue its appeasement and support of Turkish aggression. There must be no extension beyond December 10, 1974 of the suspension of the termination of military assistance to Turkey, and there must be no economic assistance to Turkey until a political settlement is achieved.

3.

Our government has supported the UN resolutions on Cyprus referred to in this letter and we are convinced that you can, in the interests of the United States, take all necessary action to bring about their implementation and achieve a just solution for the people of Cyprus.

We are sending a copy of this letter to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and to the members of Congress.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'William G. Chirgotis', written in a cursive style.

William G. Chirgotis
Supreme President
Order of Ahepa

WGC:rk